

family. After doing so consider contacting your Representative, Senators, and President to share your views. All elected officials, whether they serve at the federal, state, or local level, should look to the Constitution as they go about their duty of governing this great nation.

The revered documents that gave birth to our nation always deserve our celebration, but the 270th birthday of James Madison makes today especially significant. To mark this historic occasion, I encourage Americans to take today to learn about our nation's history and its founding documents. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to celebrate Liberty Day.

IN HONOR OF FRANCINE GREGORY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Francine Gregory, who is being honored for her efforts as the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) New Hampshire State President over the past year. VFW works to ensure that all veterans are congratulated and recognized for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation. Despite serving under unprecedented circumstances, President Gregory ensured VFW could continue fulfilling its mission of supporting New Hampshire's veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Born and raised in Jaffrey, President Gregory currently lives in Rindge, where she is a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who is deeply committed to supporting veterans in her community. Her father, Sylvio Edward, served in the United States Army during World War II. Her father's service informed President Gregory's own passion for giving back to veterans and their families.

Since 1999, President Gregory has been involved with VFW Auxiliary Post 5613 in Jaffrey. Over the years, she has served in leadership roles at Post 5613 and District 5 before taking on a statewide leadership as Department Guard in 2015. Since then, she has risen through the ranks of VFW-NH, culminating with her service as State President this past year.

In addition to her service as State President, President Gregory remains the Secretary for Auxiliary Post 5613. Beyond her involvement with VFW, she has had a long career across several sectors—in 1992, she also became an LNA and began serving her community as a provider of home health care and community services.

Devoted to her community and her family, President Gregory also served as a Girl Scout leader for 12 years and today, as she embarks on semi-retired life, she finds no greater joy than spending with, and celebrating the accomplishments of, her beautiful family.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Francine Gregory for her longstanding devotion to our state and our Veterans. I congratulate her on a successful term as State President and thank her for all that she has done, and will continue to do, to support Granite State veterans.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SHERIFF SCOTT STRAIT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the service of Sheriff Scott Strait, who recently retired after serving the people of Mackinac County for nearly 35 years. Through his selflessness and devotion to the common good, Scott has become an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

After graduating from Lake Superior State University, Scott began his work at the Mackinac County Sheriff's Office on April 28, 1986. In his service he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those in Mackinac County and across Michigan. He also continued his professional growth while working full time, earning his Master of Public Administration from Northern Michigan University in 2001. Scott has been an active leader throughout the state, serving on multiple statewide boards and councils including the Board of Directors for the Michigan Sheriffs Association. He also served as President of the Association in 2013 and previously sat on the outreach committee of the National Sheriffs Association. He has been honored for his selflessness on multiple occasions, including earning the rank of Master Sheriff in 2019 and being named Sheriff of the Year in October of 2020. Scott's tireless dedication to the public good touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I ask you to join me in honoring the service of Scott Strait. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Scott all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LIVENGOD
FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Steve Livengood to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and his decades of service educating the public about the history of this institution.

Congress chartered the United States Capitol Historical Society (USCHS) to "foster and increase an informed patriotism" in our nation's citizenry. Steve Livengood is a leader in executing that important mission. Those across the Congressional community and around the country have benefited from Steve's expertise. For a quarter-century, Steve provided continuing education and talks about the Capitol and Congress, giving briefings before every Presidential Inauguration, as well as offering background information and perspective to tourism professionals and the press. Additionally, Steve is considered the go-to expert on Capitol Ghosts and is one of the few people to publicly admit that he has

seen the ghost of John Quincy Adams in Statuary Hall.

Since 1996, Steve has served as a full-time Capitol tour guide, volunteer coordinator, and director of other public programs for USCHS. He led tours for notable entertainers such as Harrison Ford, Robert Duvall, and Martha Stewart; foreign dignitaries like the Attorney General of Italy, the President of Hungary, and at least one current crowned head of a prominent European country. Steve also guided tours for titans of industry such as the President of The Ford Motor Company, Indra Nooyi, President of PepsiCo, and several hedge-fund managers through the halls of the Capitol. When the Capitol was closed to public tours after the 9/11 attack, Steve organized the first regular public tours around the Capitol grounds to allow visitors an opportunity for a guided interpretive tour despite the building's closure.

Steve's contributions to USCHS extend far beyond leading tours. He served as the co-organizer of the We the People Constitution Tour program for DC Public School students, which helps Washington middle schoolers experience the Constitution as embodied in the buildings and work of their city. Furthermore, Steve wrote the We the People Constitution Tour Program's Capitol script and personally led tours for upwards of ten thousand students over roughly fifteen years. When COVID-19 closed the Capitol to visitors, Steve helped to develop the Society's virtual learning series exploring the history of the Capitol and the Capitol Hill neighborhood—a series now attended by Congressional staff and alumni, as well as history buffs from around the country.

Steve became a member of USCHS in 1973 and participated in many of their programs over the following two decades. His involvement increased dramatically in 1993 when he began serving as a USCHS volunteer tour guide. Fondly remembering the tours he'd given as a college student, Steve quickly became one of the most active tour volunteers for the Society. As the Society grew, Steve jumped at the opportunity to take a tour program position. Steve became the Society's first employee dedicated solely to organizing the tour program, later taking on such additional responsibilities as sales of USCHS calendars to Members' offices in the House and Senate.

Steve Livengood's passion for the Capitol began when he was just twelve and his parents tasked him with planning an educational vacation. Over the next two years, he arranged for his family to visit Washington, D.C. During the trip Steve became so enamored with the city that he chose D.C. as his college home, attending American University to study Political Science and Government.

While enrolled at American University, Steve leveraged a Kansas connection into volunteering with his Congressman Joe Skubitz. He spent Saturday mornings working on the second floor of the Cannon House Office Building doing such things as rubberstamping "From the Office of Congressman Joe Skubitz, Kansas 5th District" on copies of the official Capitol guidebooks to be distributed to constituents and other visitors.

During spring break, the staff offered Steve a paid opportunity. From 1965 until his graduation in 1968, Steve worked part-time in Mr. Skubitz's office and full time during the summer of 1967. His favorite task was giving tours

of the Capitol building for constituents and visitors.

After a short, involuntary tour in Southeast Asia, Steve ventured to Emory University where he received a Master's in recent social history. Along with his studies, he served as Speaker in the Emory University Student Legislature and student body Vice President.

Steve returned to Washington in 1973 for his dissertation research, titled "Scandals in the 1938 Senate Elections and the Passage of the Hatch Act." Steve worked for various groups organizing many programs and meetings on Capitol Hill for political and policy organizations before he came to work for the Society. Steve Livengood dedicated his career to the belief that the United States Capitol is the Temple of Democracy for the world, and that Congress is the most important example of how to implement a representative democracy. Steve Livengood proudly claims that the United States government serves as the best example of government for all of humankind. We salute his 25 years of service to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, and look forward to many more years of tours and public history lessons.

RECOGNIZING DANA BRISTOL-SMITH AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Oceanside resident and Executive Director of Leap to Success Dana Bristol-Smith, as my March Constituent of the Month. March is Women's History Month, a chance to celebrate and pay tribute to women and all the ways they have made profound impacts on our nation. While we use this opportunity to commemorate phenomenal women of the past and present, I am honored to include Dana in the celebrations, a woman who has dedicated her life to uplifting women every single day right here in my district.

Dana started her Leap to Success Women's Leadership program in 2008 after learning of the correlation between domestic violence victims' lack of self-confidence and their ability to avoid returning to abusive partners. In response to this discovery, she developed a program to help these women own their power and start living for themselves again. Her program brought immense success and joy from the participating women, and from then on, she made it her mission to expand Leap to Success to as many women as she can.

With helpful guidance and an environment full of encouragement and love, Dana's goal is for women who may be in abusive situations to discover the courage to find their voice, own their worth, and feel empowered to move forward in life. Dana's community of supporters help women realize that their past is nothing to be ashamed of, but rather, an opportunity to create a brighter and healthier future. While there is so much more we must do to prevent domestic violence, I am grateful for leaders like Dana whose passion and heart creates hope and inspiration for women. I am honored to recognize her as my Constituent of the Month.

U.S. ELECTION PRACTICES: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this chamber recently passed H.R. 1, the "For the People Act," significant legislation making it easier for American citizens to vote in U.S. elections and improve transparency and accountability in our election process. The White House also recently announced a new executive order to assist this effort. These are positive developments that I welcome and support, but, as we all know, not everything regarding the conduct of elections can be done at the federal level. Unfortunately, many state legislatures are now undertaking efforts that would make it more difficult for eligible Americans to participate in the electoral process and vote.

As Chair and in the leadership of the Helsinki Commission, I have supported the positive steps we are trying to take on this issue, yet I remain deeply concerned about those who want to move our country backward.

Perhaps it would help our debate to look at the conduct of the 2020 U.S. elections from an international perspective, including the conduct of elections in conformity with international commitments first proposed and advocated by the United States more than 30 years ago.

The United States has been one of five countries thus far where the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has observed elections during the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, and a German parliamentarian reported on its findings on February 26. He did not point fingers at us and accuse. He mentioned the positive as well as the negative. He is clearly a friend who cares, as most of the OSCE observers undoubtedly were.

As a previous election observer in the OSCE region, I can also attest, that the code of conduct makes it is extremely unlikely that the OSCE election observation could be steered in support of any particular agenda other than better democracy.

I therefore want to commend to my colleagues the full OSCE Final report "United States of America General Elections, 3 November 2020, ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission", which can be found at https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/7/7/477823_2.pdf. It offers an important perspective on our elections from persons who rightly care about the process, not the result. They have observed not only our elections since 2002 but elections in dozens of other countries on a regular basis.

The issues raised in the report are the same issues we Americans debate here in Washington, in our state capitals and through the media. I take the conclusions and recommendations, including criticisms, in this election observation report seriously. It serves as a helpful guide on what next steps we should take to improve our electoral system. I believe our election officials and state legislators should read this report; indeed, I recommend it to any American who cares about his or her country. It is a broad snapshot of our entire, complex electoral system.

Several of the priority recommendations in the report deal with voting rights and voter identification. Specifically, it says that "authori-

ties should review existing measures to further reduce the number of unregistered voters, including addressing burdensome procedures and obstacles faced by disadvantaged groups." It also says that "states should make every effort to ensure that voter identification requirements are equally accessible to all voters." It also makes specific recommendations regarding specific groups of American citizens.

We do not need to agree about every conclusion and recommendation in this report to take it seriously. It is a contribution to our debates from a unique perspective. Moreover, our acceptance of international observation serves a useful function in our foreign policy. OSCE election observation has encouraged practices giving voters a real choice in numerous other countries, many of which were once repressive, one-party communist states but are now our friends and even, in some cases, allies. The United States initiated this effort with the OSCE and contributes significantly to election observation missions elsewhere, providing the expertise that comes with our experience. If we are to encourage other governments to take this effort seriously and implement recommendations, we need to set the example ourselves. Unfortunately, several U.S. states greatly restrict or even prohibit international observation. This is something which must change as we prepare for mid-term elections in 2022 and general elections in 2024.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF JEAN ZARANKO

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jean Zaranko on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Mrs. Zaranko was born on June 10, 1926. She was raised in Taylor Township, Michigan. She completed school up to 8th grade and then worked as an elevator operator at the Griswold Building in Downtown Detroit but felt like she needed to do something more for her country during World War II.

At the age of 17 she altered her birth certificate in order to join the war effort at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti Township. Jean was originally hired as a welder but became a riveter, working on the center wing of the B-24 and sometimes slipping notes into the wings for servicemen to find. As a Rosie the Riveter, Jean's hard work, grit, and patriotism not only sustained the American war effort, but paved a path for the next generation of working women.

She came to meet her first husband Moscow Lambert after a man at a bus stop at Willow Run had broken his glasses and asked for assistance in writing to his son who was serving overseas. This began a two-year affair, constantly exchanging calls and letters until they finally met one day at the Train Depot in Detroit where he proposed to her that day. Together, they had four sons and were married for nine years before Moscow passed away due to an accident at the steel plant where he worked. She later married Mr. Zaranko and they were together for 52 years.

A proud Rosie, even now she has remained an active member of our community. She feels